

The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Inspection of TIFR

3954. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a committee of foreign experts visited and examined the working of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) during the month of February, 1997.

(b) if so, the reasons for permitting the inspection;

(c) the details of the recommendations and suggestions made by the above Committee; and

(d) the details of recommendations adopted by the Government and reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), the premier scientific research institution in the fields of physics, Mathematics and allied sciences, is an autonomous institution supported by the Department of Atomic Energy. TIFR completed fifty years of research activities in 1995-96. As a sequel to the TIFR's Golden Jubilee, its Council for Management decided to invite a group of eminent scientists to review TIFR's achievements and make recommendations on, inter alia, international collaboration with other institutions, scope for greater purposeful interaction with industry in selected areas and the steps needed to enable the Institute to attract creative talent in the light of increasing specialisation of research.

A Committee consisting of the following experts visited and reviewed the working of TIFR during 13-18 January 1997

- (i) Prof. Lord Porter, OM, FRS, Nobel Laureate, Chairman, Centre for Petromolecular Sciences, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Imperial College, London, UK.
- (ii) Prof. D. Mumford, Department of Mathematics, Harvard University, USA.
- (iii) Prof. Sir Arnold Welfendale, FRS, Department of Physics, University of Durham Science Laboratories, UK.

- (iv) Prof. B.V. Sreekantan, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore and Former Director, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

Prof. S. Brennex, FRS was prevented by illness from attending as a member of the Committee but gave written evidence.

(c) and (d) The above mentioned Committee has just submitted its report to the Chairman of TIFR's Council of Management. This report is due for consideration by the TIFR's Council of Management at its next meeting to be held in April 1997. It will be possible for the Government to take decisions on the recommendations of the Committee only after TIFR's Council of Management has considered the report, and on matters referred to it.

Oil Exploration

3955. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated quantity of resources of oil and natural gas in Gujarat;

(b) the areas in the State where these resources are located; and

(c) the progress made in exploration so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU) : (a) State of Gujarat encompasses onland part of three sedimentary basins viz., Cambay, Kutch and Saurashtra. The prognosticated resources of the onland part of these basins are 2260 MMT of oil + oil equivalent of gas (O+OEG) in the onland.

(b) Resources in Cambay basin are located in the districts of Sabarkantha, Banas Kantha, Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Gandhi Nagar, Kheda, Vadodara, Baruch & Surat.

The resources in Saurashtra are located close to the Coastal areas in the districts of Jamnagar, Junggarh and Bhavnagar and in Kutch basin in Kutch districts.

(c) As on 1.1.97 a total of 225 structures (219 in Cambay, 5 in Kutch and 1 in Saurashtra) have been probed by drilling of which 83 are hydrocarbon bearing and fall in the Cambay basin.

Service Heads Accounts to the Courts

3956. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court in its order dated February 13, 1997 dealing with accountability of the